

BEST IN DEFENSE

OFFICE OF DEFENSE DEVELOPMENT

WEST CENTRAL INDIANA



Indiana
A State that Works



Located in the heart of the country along one of the most traveled interstate highways, west central Indiana is a defense dynamo—home to the Air National Guard's 181ST Intelligence Wing and the Indiana National Guard's 81ST Troop Command. The West Central Indiana Defense Development Task Force consistently drives new talent attraction and economic development, and the region is already home to exceptional national and regional universities, superior ground and air networks, a tech-ready workforce and outstanding quality-of-place resources.

ECONOMY & WORKFORCE

- Cost of living: 15% lower than national average
- Median property value: \$91,000
- Median household income: \$46,951
- Nearly 25% of bachelor's degrees granted by regional colleges and universities are STEM-related



HIGH-TECH MANUFACTURING

West central Indiana has operations from the nation's and world's largest manufacturers.

GE Aviation
Aerospace

Sony DADC
Plastics

Bemis
Plastics

ThyssenKrupp Presta
Automotive

ADVICS
Automotive

Tri-Aerospace
Aerospace

Taghleef
Plastics

181ST INTELLIGENCE WING

HULMAN FIELD

Based at Hulman Field, the 181ST Intelligence Wing processes, analyzes and disseminates surveillance and reconnaissance data collected by UAVs in various areas around the globe.

81ST TROOP COMMAND

Based at Hulman, the 81st Troop Command's primary responsibility is to prepare and assist local agencies in domestic/homeland security operations.



EDUCATION

ROSE-HULMAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



A #1 ranked undergraduate engineering program (*universities that do not offer doctorate degrees*) by U.S. News & World Report, the Institute attracts top-caliber students from all over the United States, with 15% of incoming freshmen ranking 1st, 2nd or 3rd in their graduating high school class.

The Institute provides hands-on, real-world experiences for its students—over 90% complete at least one internship or co-op experience by graduation.



**Indiana State
University**

Rated among the best Midwestern universities by Forbes and the Princeton Review. The Princeton Review and U.S. News & World Report also ranked the Scott College of Business as one of the top business schools for its class. It's a leader in unmanned systems.



**DEPAUW
UNIVERSITY**

DePauw University is ranked as a top tier national liberal arts college by U.S. News & World Report and Forbes.

SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS COLLEGE

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College ranks among the best regional colleges in the Midwest and as one of the best online programs in the nation by U.S. News & World Report.



Ivy Tech Community College in Terre Haute offers numerous STEM-related degree programs, from advanced manufacturing to cybersecurity.

INFRASTRUCTURE

INTERSTATES & U.S. HIGHWAYS



U.S. HIGHWAYS

The area is served by 52 national and regional over-the-road trucking companies, 12 of which have terminals in Terre Haute.

AIRPORTS

Terre Haute Regional Airport/Hulman Field provides general aviation, military operations and unmanned aerial systems. THRA features a 24-hour FAA Control Tower with multiple precision approaches on a 9,020-foot-long primary runway and a 7,200-foot cross-wind runway.



Unmanned Aerial Vehicle/ Unmanned Aerial System Space

THRA currently has a Certificate of Authorization for airport sensor platforms within its airspace; nearby restricted airspace is available at Camp Atterbury, Jefferson Proving Grounds and Lake Glendora for advanced testing and training scenarios.

QUALITY OF PLACE

AS A HUB OF ACTIVITY,
WEST CENTRAL
INDIANA BRINGS IN
\$40 MILLION
IN TOURISM ANNUALLY.

In 2017, Terre Haute hosted over 130,000 visitors to enjoy its many retail offerings, 127 restaurants and 2,000 hotel rooms.

TERRE HAUTE DOWNTOWN MUSEUMS

The Children's Museum features 35,000 sq. feet of permanent exhibits, including an interactive, multi-level tree house and a 'river circuit,' which includes cause-and-effect water physics.

Additionally, there are eight other museums within walking distance of downtown Terre Haute.

TERRE HAUTE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Founded in 1926, the THSO is the longest-running civic orchestra in the state of Indiana.



TOURIST DESTINATIONS

Opened in 2016, Griffin Bike Park is a world-class, full-spectrum bike park with 300 acres, featuring a 16-mile trail system, 10 national-level racing venues, seven specialized areas, and riding for all ages and skill levels.

In addition, the LaVern Gibson Cross Country Course and the Wabash Valley Family Sports Center are nationally-recognized venues, drawing thousands to Terre Haute each year.

Terre Haute's deep history with open-wheel auto racing includes regional and national competition with sprint, midget and late-model races.

Indiana State University features Division 1 basketball and football.



DEFENSE INDUSTRY ASSISTANCE

West Central IN 2025

terrehautechamber.com/community/west-central-2025

West Central Indiana Defense Network

wcidefense.com

West Central Indiana Small Business Development Center

isbdc.org/locations/west-central-isbdc

Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce

terrehautechamber.com

Wabash Valley Base Community Council

facebook.com/WabashValleyBCC

Terre Haute Economic Development Corporation

terrehauteedc.com

Indiana State University Business Engagement Center

facebook.com/ISUBusinessEngagement

Terre Haute Department of Redevelopment

terrehaute.in.gov/main/departments/redevelopment

Vigo County Department of Redevelopment

vigocounty.in.gov



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